

Amendment to the Specification

Please replace the third paragraph of page 4 of the specification with the following paragraph. The full text of this paragraph without underlining appears on the following page.

The chelated transition metal catalyst may be composed of divalent or trivalent cationic species of a transition metal. Examples include, but are not limited to, iron, copper, manganese, nickel, chromium, vanadium, silver and zinc. The transition metals can be complexed by a variety of chelants that are known in the literature. Examples of suitable chelants include, but are not limited to; ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), hydroxyacetic acid, phthalate, phosphate, pyrophosphate, metaphosphate, 1,2-benzenediol, citrate, nitriloacetic acid, tetrahydroxy-1,4-quionone, 1,2-dihydroxynaphthalene, hydroxyethylene diphosphonic acid, maleate, ascorbate, and aspartate. By complexing the transition metal catalyst with a chelant, it has been found that the survivability of the catalyst is greatly enhanced, and also that trivalent transition metal cations may be used. As indicated above, in the absence of a chelant, divalent metal cations are converted to trivalent cations which react in the presence of water or carbonate to form insoluble hydroxides or carbonates which precipitate out and/or do not move in the soil with the oxidant thus resulting in the decrease of catalytic activity. Also without the presence of a chelant some trivalent metal cations are not effective catalysts.

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